

09/914475

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Title: BINDER, CARRIER PACK AND CORRESPONDING BLANK

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3-8, and 13-16 as follows.

3. The evaporator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wall thickness ( $e_1$ ) of a tube lies between 0.2 and 0.7 mm.
4. The evaporator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the internal thickness ( $e_2$ ) of a tube lies between 0.6 and 1.8 mm.
5. The evaporator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corrugation half-period ( $p/2$ ) of the spacers lies between 1.0 and 1.8 mm.
6. The evaporator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wall thickness ( $e_2$ ) of the spacers lies between 0.05 and 0.1 mm.
7. The evaporator (10) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tubes and the fluid boxes (18, 21) are in the form of a stack of pouches (11) each formed from two sheet-metal plates (12, 13) stamped into the shape of cups, the concavities of which are turned towards one another and which are brazed together so as to be leak tight at their periphery, each pouch defining one of the said tubes and featuring, at each of its ends, an increased thickness so as to define a segment of fluid box.
8. The evaporator (30) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fluid boxes are independent components (31, 32) featuring apertures (34) through which penetrate the ends of the tubes (1), the latter being brazed so as to be leaktight to the edge of the apertures.
13. The evaporator (30) as claimed in claim 8, wherein at least one fluid box (31) is formed from two elements (33, 37) delimiting an internal volume (45, 46),

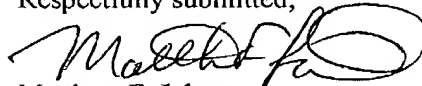
one of which (33) features the said apertures (34), and at least on affixed internal partition (39) separating the said internal volume into different chambers (45, 46) each of which communicates with on subset of the tubes.

14. The evaporator (30) as claimed in claim 8, wherein at least one fluid box (32) is formed from a manifold plate (33) featuring the said apertures (34), and of at least two tank-shaped elements (41, 42) interacting with the manifold plate, each over a part of the extent of the plate, so as to delimit respective chambers (47, 48) each of which communicates with a subset of the tubes.
15. The evaporator as claimed in claim 8, wherein at least one fluid box is formed from at least one stamped sheet-metal element (60) defining, on either side of a fold line (L), a manifold plate (62) featuring the said apertures (63) and a tank (61) which are brought edge to edge by folding and brazed together so as to delimit a chamber of the fluid box.
16. The evaporator as claimed in claim 4, in which the number of passes is chosen between 4 and 6.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is intended to place the instant application in better condition for examination on the merits. Should the examiner believe further discussion would advance prosecution, they are invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

3. The evaporator as claimed in [one of claims 1 and 2] claim 1, wherein the wall thickness ( $e_1$ ) of a tube lies between 0.2 and 0.7 mm.
4. The evaporator as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the internal thickness ( $c_2$ ) of a tube lies between 0.6 and 1.8 mm.
5. The evaporator as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the corrugation half-period ( $p/2$ ) of the spacers lies between 1.0 and 1.8 mm.
6. The evaporator as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the wall thickness ( $e_2$ ) of the spacers lies between 0.05 and 0.1 mm.
7. The evaporator (10) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the tubes and the fluid boxes (18, 21) are in the form of a stack of pouches (11) each formed from two sheet-metal plates (12, 13) stamped into the shape of cups, the concavities of which are turned towards one another and which are brazed together so as to be leak tight at their periphery, each pouch defining one of the said tubes and featuring, at each of its ends, an increased thickness so as to define a segment of fluid box.
8. The evaporator (30) as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein the fluid boxes are independent components (31, 32) featuring apertures (34) through which penetrate the ends of the tubes (1), the latter being brazed so as to be leaktight to the edge of the apertures.

13. The evaporator (30) as claimed in [one of claims 8 to 12] claim 8, wherein at least one fluid box (31) is formed from two elements (33, 37) delimiting an internal volume (45, 46), one of which (33) features the said apertures (34), and at least on affixed internal partition (39) separating the said internal volume into different chambers (45, 46) each of which communicates with on subset of the tubes.
14. The evaporator (30) as claimed in [one of claims 8 to 13] claim 8, wherein at least one fluid box (32) is formed from a manifold plate (33) featuring the said apertures (34), and of at least two tank-shaped elements (41, 42) interacting with the manifold plate, each over a part of the extent of the plate, so as to delimit respective chambers (47, 48) each of which communicates with a subset of the tubes.
15. The evaporator as claimed in [one of claims 8 to 14] claim 8, wherein at least one fluid box is formed from at least one stamped sheet-metal element (60) defining, on either side of a fold line (L), a manifold plate (62) featuring the said apertures (63) and a tank (61) which are brought edge to edge by folding and brazed together so as to delimit a chamber of the fluid box.
16. The evaporator as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 4, in which the number of passes is chosen between 4 and 6.